

SCOOP™

#BuriedLeads



MAVERICK

RICHARD ASHLEY
HAMILTON

PABLO ANDRÉS

SIMON ROBINS
DAVE LANPHEAR

SCOOP™



#BuriedLeads

VOL.2

SCOOP™

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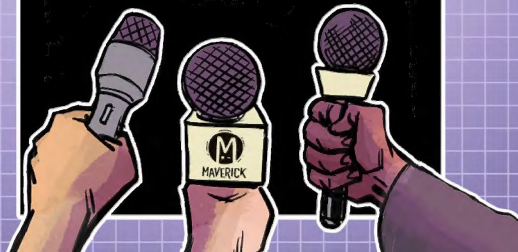
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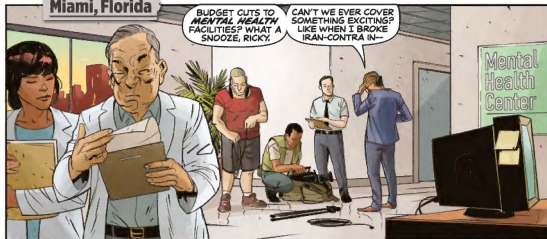
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Digital Version.



1994

Miami, Florida



BUDGET CUTS TO **MENTAL HEALTH** FACILITIES? WHAT A SNOOZE, RICKY.

CAN'T WE EVER COVER SOMETHING EXCITING? LIKE WHEN I BROKE IRAN-CONTRA IN--



PLEASE, *HAL*, NO MORE TALL TALES ABOUT YOUR ILLUSTRIOUS REPORTING CAREER.

ALL I'M SAYING IS A REAL NEWS PRODUCER WOULD--

I'M A FINE PRODUCER! OUR STATION IS--AND ALWAYS *WILL BE*--NUMBER ONE IN THE RATINGS.

¿PERDÓNEME?



ARE YOU GENTLEMEN FROM THE TV?



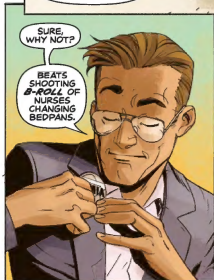
OH, BOY! IT NEVER FAILS. HERE COME THE *LOOKIE-LOOS*...

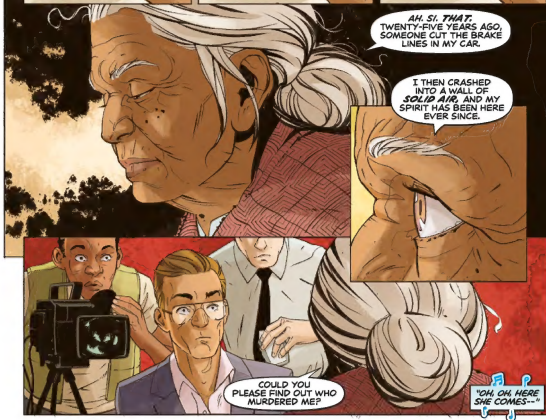
YES, MA'AM! ARE YOU A FAN OF THE *WMIA 7 ACTION NEWS TEAM*?



WELL...NO. BUT I DO HAVE A NEWS STORY FOR YOU.

IT'S ABOUT A *MURDER*.

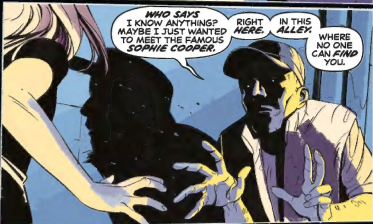




Now
Miami, Florida

--SHE'S A
MANEATER!







SOPHIE,
KIT—YOU GUYS
OKAY?

HOW COULD
WE *NOT* BE,
SAGE? I HAVE MY
OWN PERSONAL
BODYGUARD.

YEAH,
ABOUT
THAT...

...YOU KNOW I'VE
ALWAYS GOT YOUR BACK,
SOPHIE. ESPECIALLY
AFTER WHAT YOU DID
FOR *ME*--

SAM!
MILENKO!
HUSH!

--BUT AREN'T
YOU, MAYBE, I DON'T
KNOW, *TEMPTING
FATE* BY PUTTING
YOURSELF OUT THERE
SO MUCH?

FOLLOW THE TRUTH
WHEREVER IT LEADS YOU.
THAT'S RITZ REPORTING
RULE NUMBER SIX.

AND I
TOTALLY HAD
EVERYTHING
IN HAND.

OH, OH, HERE SHE COMES, WATCH OUT BOY, SHE'LL CHEW YOU UP

"WE WERE GONNA SEE OUR FAVORITE
HALL & OATES COVER BAND,
TWO REBELS IN A SHELL--

"--I SCORED TICKETS FOR US,
NO BIG DEAL--WHEN SOPH'S
NEWS ALERTS BLEW UP.

"SOME DUDE'S BEEN @-ING HER FOR
MONTHS, BUT THIS WAS THE FIRST
TIME HE TAGGED OUR DAD'S BANK.

"SO, I DEvised A CLEVER RUSe.
STEP ONE WAS SOPH TWEETING
ABOUT OUR CONCERT AT THE
BALL & CHAIN.

"SOPH'S NOT NORMALLY ONE TO
SHARE PERSONAL STUFF, BUT
WE KNEW HER CYBER-STALKER
WOULD SEE IT.

"THEN IT WAS A SIMPLE
MATTER OF USING NEAR-
FIELD COMMUNICATION TO
PING AGAINST ANYBODY
CLOSE BY WHO FOLLOWS
@SCOOP_INTERN.

"AND BEFORE YOU
ASK--YES, THIS IS
ADVANCED, EVEN FOR
ME--AND NO, IT'S NOT
TECHNICALLY 'LEGAL.'

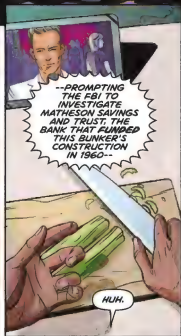
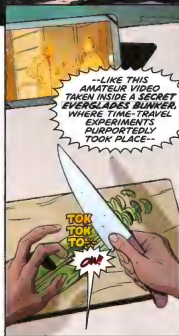
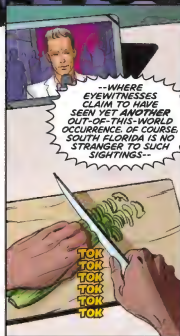
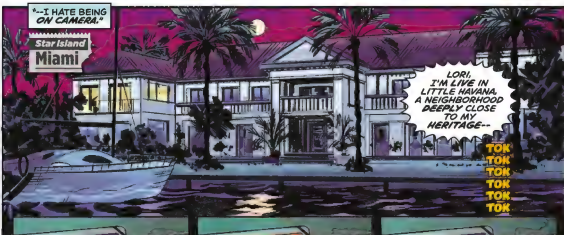
"OBVIOUSLY, MY TRAP WORKED,
CREEP-O WAS BUSTED, AND
OUR GPS LOCATION WENT OUT
TO YOU AND WMIA 7.

W
VREEP
VREEP
W

"LIKE I SAID, TOTALLY IN HAND, SAGE.
BESIDES, SOPH'S BEEN TAKING YOUR
SELF-DEFENSE CLASSES."







Cooper residence
Coral Gables

THANKS
FOR THE LIFT,
WHIRLY.

THAT'S A
TEN-FOUR,
SOPHIE!

WANT
US TO SCARE
AWAY THOSE
VULTURES?

TEMPTING.
BUT MOST OF
THE CIRCUS
IS GONE.

THESE GUYS
ARE JUST STRAGGLERS
SNIFFING FOR *CLICK-BAIT*.

YOU HEARD HER,
BOYS! LET'S SEE IF
WE CAN MAKE *LAST*
CALL.

HASTA MAÑANA,
GANGBUSTERS!

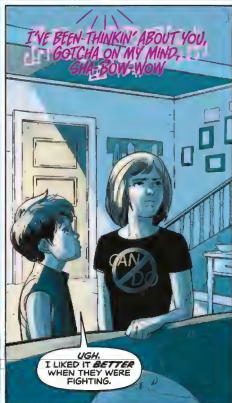
I STILL CAN'T
BELIEVE THAT
SANCHEZ-WHATEVER
GUY, TAKING CREDIT
FOR YOUR STORY!
WANNA GET
EVEN?

NAH. IT'S NOT LIKE HE GOT FOOTAGE
OF CREEP-O BEAMING UP. EVEN OURS
IS TOO SCRAMBLED TO POST.

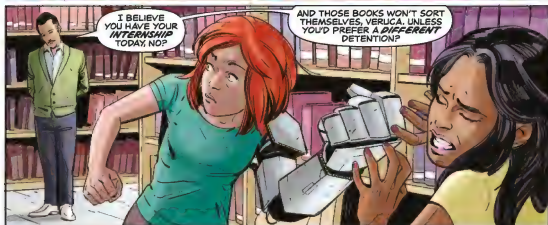
WHICH MIGHT
BE A *BLESSING*
IN DISGUISE.

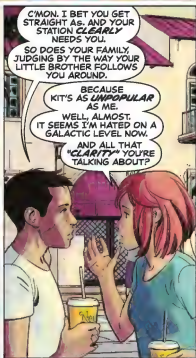
MOM AND
DAD BARELY
TOLERATE MY
INTERNSHIP AS
IT IS. THE *LAST*
THING I NEED
IS THEM--

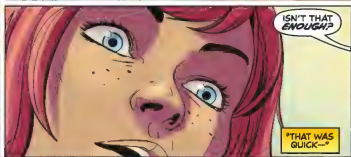














—YOU'RE
LUCKY I'M NOT
ON *SPEED-TRAP*
DUTY TODAY.

Off Tamiami Trail
The Everglades, Florida
U.S. Highway 41

DON'T WORRY,
SHERIFF. MY PARENTS
ONLY LET ME HIRE DRIVERS
WITH FIVE-STAR SAFETY
REVIEWS.

SO MUCH
FOR GETTING BACK
IN THAT BUNKER FOR
A FOLLOW-UP.



Hmm. RUMOR IS YOU MET
SOMEONE FROM THE *STARS*
LAST NIGHT. THE *FEDS* ARRIVE
HERE SOON AFTER.



MANY EYES NOW
WATCH YOU, MISS COOPER.
YOU HAVE THEIR INTEREST.
THEIR *ATTENTION*.

BUT WHAT
WILL YOU *DO* WITH THIS
ATTENTION? YES, YOU COULD
CONTINUE SEARCHING THE
SHADOWS--

I DOUBT THAT'S
A *COINCIDENCE*. YET,
MY HOPE IS YOU MIGHT
ALSO SEE THIS AS AN
OPPORTUNITY.



"--BUT CAN'T YOU ALSO TURN THIS ATTENTION TO THE CRIMES THAT HAPPEN IN **PLAIN SIGHT?**"

YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, GANGBUSTERS? I DON'T RECALL OUR **LAST** VISIT HERE ENDING TO WELL.

HONESTLY? NO, I'M NOT. THEN AGAIN--

--MAYBE THAT'S THE POINT.

Umoja Village
Liberty City

SOPHIE! OVER HERE! WATCHA GOT THIS TIME?

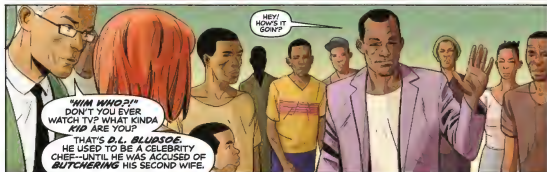
VAMPIRES? CHUPACABRAS? MORE DISAPPEARING FIDEL CASTRO LOOK-ALIKES?

I DOUBT HAL TAUGHT YOU THIS, BUT IT'S PROFESSIONAL COURTESY FOR US JOURNALISTS TO SHARE LEADS.

THAT'S RICH. AN **ETHICS** LESSON FROM THE GUY WHO LETS SOMEONE ELSE DO ALL THE LEGWORK--

--AND THEN STEALS THEIR SCOOP!





--I WANT YOU TO
HELP ME FIND HER
REAL KILLER.







BUT NOT THAT LONG AGO, EVERYBODY WAS CONVINCED THAT **DAD** COMMITTED MEGA-EMBEZZLEMENT.

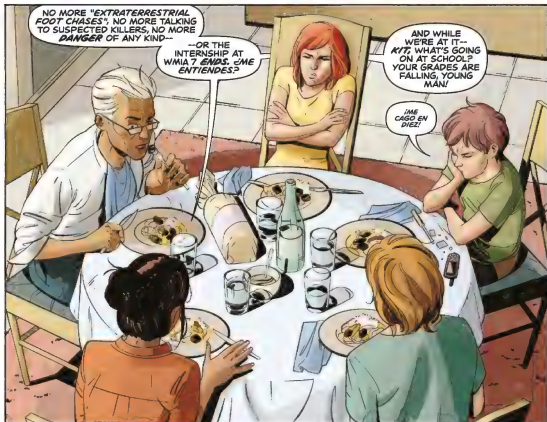
ISN'T IT POSSIBLE D.L. HAS ALSO BEEN WRONGFULLY ACCUSED?



DON'T I HAVE A **RESPONSIBILITY** TO TURN ATTENTION TO THE CRIMES THAT HAPPEN IN **PLAIN SIGHT**?



NO, YOU'RE FIFTEEN-YEARS-OLD, SOPH. **BARELY**. AND IT'S STILL OUR JOB TO KEEP YOU SAFE.

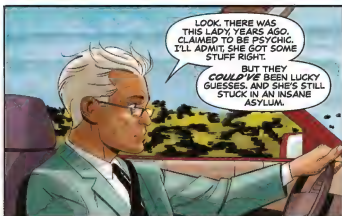


NO MORE "EXTRATERRESTRIAL FOOT CHASES", NO MORE TALKING TO SUSPECTED KILLERS, NO MORE **DANGER** OF ANY KIND--

--OR THE INTERNSHIP AT WMIA7 **ENDS**. ¿ME ENTIENDES?

AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT-- **KIT**, WHAT'S GOING ON AT SCHOOL? YOUR GRADES ARE FALLING, YOUNG MAN!

¡ME CAGO EN DIEZ!





THERE SHE IS!
THANKS FOR
COMIN' ON OUT,
SOPHIE!
AND YOU
MUST BE
HANK!

HAL, RITZ.
I INTERVIEWED YOU ON
THE COURTHOUSE STEPS
JUST AFTER YOUR
ACQUITTAL--

RIGHT!
HAL RITZ!

YOUR HAIR
WAS A LITTLE
DIFFERENT BACK
THEN.

GUESS I'M
MORE OF A NATIONAL
NEWS GUY THESE DAYS.
STOPPED WATCHING THE
LOCAL STUFF--



--WHEN
THEY STARTED
CAMPING OUT ON
MY FRONT
LAWN.

EVEN AFTER
THE *NOT GUILTY*
VERDICT, IT TOOK
THOSE BUZZARDS
MONTHS TO
GET LOST.



ANYWAY,
I HOPE YOU
GUYS CAME
HUNGRY!

NOT OFTEN
I GET COMPANY, SO I GOT
FIVE COURSES WAITIN' FOR
YA, STARTING WITH AN
AMUSE-BOUCHE...

WHAT A SHAME.
WE JUST FINISHED A BIG
LUNCH, AND WE SHOULD
PROBABLY KEEP THIS BRI--

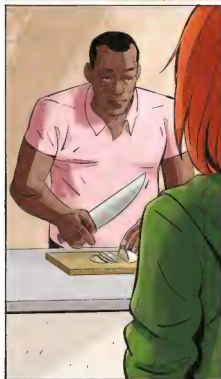
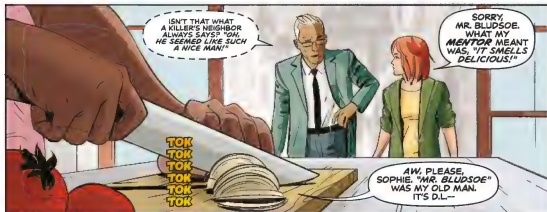


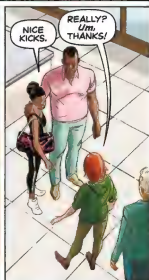
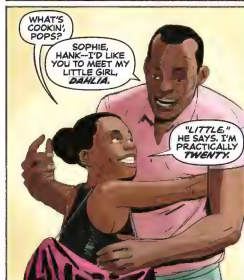
..OOO!

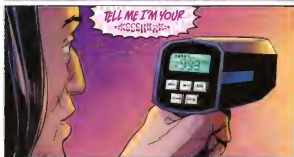
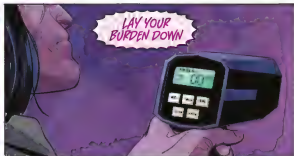
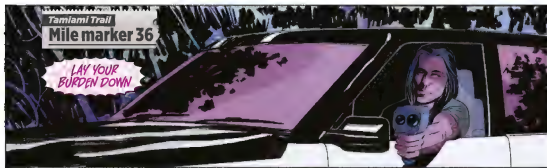
YOU
PROMISED
NOT TO RUSH ME
OUTTA HERE! AND
LOOK AT THESE
PHOTOS!

THIS IS A MAN
WHO LOVES HIS
FAMILY, NOT A
COLD-BLOODED
KILLER.

TOK
TOK
TOK
TOK
TOK









...BOBBY?



BOBBY
TWO-TIGERS,
IS THAT
YOU?



EASY,
BOBBY!
I GOT
YOU!

D-DANGER!
SHE'S IN
DANGER!

WHO IS?



THE FIRE
GIRL--

*--THE GIRL WITH
FIRE FOR HAIR!

WMIA 7 News Station
North Miami Beach

--THE BLUDSOE
LEGAL TEAM'S
ENTIRE DEFENSE
HINGING ON THE
MISSING MURDER
WEAPON--

--WITH
INVESTIGATORS
UNABLE TO LOCATE
THE KNIFE IN
QUESTION. THIS, PLUS
TAINTED DNA
EVIDENCE--

MAN, DOES
THAT TAKE ME
BACK. THEY
NEVER *DID* FIND
THAT KNIFE.

MY PARENTS FOLLOWED THIS
TRIAL WHEN IT HAPPENED, BUT I
WAS TOO LITTLE. WHAT STICKS
OUT TO YOU, WHIRLY?

BLUDSOE
ALWAYS SAID THE
KILLER WAS AN
ACQUAINTANCE.

WHAT'D
HE CALL
THAT
GUY?

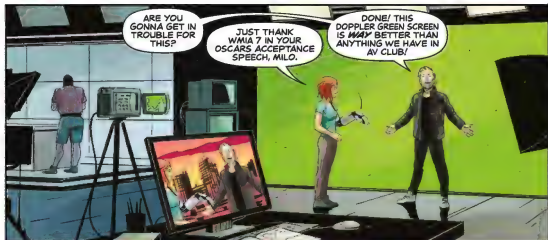
OH, YEAH--
DOC.

NOBODY
KNEW HIS LAST NAME.
IT WAS LIKE THIS *DOC* JUST
UP AND DISAPPEARED INTO
THIN AIR ONE DAY.

Uh, SOPHIE, IT'S OKAY
FOR YOU TO *RESEARCH*
THAT HERE. I MEAN, I
PERSONALLY FIND IT VERY
UNSETTLING.

BUT YOU KNOW
OUR STATION'S
POLICY--INTERNS
CAN'T HAVE
PERSONAL
VISITORS.

RIKKI, I'VE NEVER
SEEN THIS KID
BEFORE IN MY
LIFE.



ARE YOU GONNA GET IN TROUBLE FOR THIS?

JUST THANK WMIA 7 IN YOUR OSCARS ACCEPTANCE SPEECH, MILO.

DONE! THIS DOPPLER GREEN SCREEN IS *MAY* BETTER THAN ANYTHING WE HAVE IN ANY CLUB!



ONE OF THE PERKS OF OUR RATINGS GOING UP, I GUESS.

SO, JUST IMAGINE MIAMI IS BEHIND US. BUT IN, Y'KNOW, *POST-APOCALYPTIC* RUINS. FIRE EVERYWHERE.



AND, UH, I WAS THINKING ABOUT YOUR DIALOGUE FROM EARLIER.

YEAH, SORRY AGAIN FOR FLUBBING THAT.

NO, NO! YOUR VERSION'S *BETTER* THAN WHAT I WROTE.



IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH POWER. IT REALLY IS ABOUT THE *TRUTH*.

"THE TRUTH OF OUR LOVE."

MILO...



©--FRIENDS.©

Micosukee Indian Reservation

AREN'T YOU OLD ENOUGH TO HAVE A LEARNER'S PERMIT?

SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE GLAD WE'RE NOT GOING BACK TO CHEZ BLUDSOE'S FOR A SECOND HELPING...

...OR WATCHING THE *SARIES* FOR SIGNS OF INTELLIGENT LIFE...

BOBBY DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ELSE. COLLAPSED NOT LONG AFTER I PULLED HIM FREE, HASN'T COME-TO SINCE.

THE *EMTS* WHO BROUGHT HIM HERE DID A FULL WORK UP. NOTHING WRONG WITH BOBBY, HEALTH-WISE.

OUR MEDICINE MAN'S NOW TRYING TO REVIVE HIM THROUGH MORE... *TRADITIONAL* MEANS.

YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT *COINCIDENCES*, MISS COOPER.

THE SHADOWS MAY STILL REQUIRE YOUR ATTENTION.

AND THERE'S SOMETHING *ELSE* YOU SHOULD SEE.



THE SHOEPRINTS
LED OFF THAT WAY, INTO
THE **MANGROVES**. SIZE
TWELVE. SAME COLOR
AS THAT ROD.

SAME COLOR
AS EVERYTHING ELSE
YOU DISCOVERED IN THAT
BUNKER. DID MY BEST
TO TRACK THEM,
BUT—



OH, COME ON,
GANGBUSTERS. IT'S A
SCHOOL NIGHT!



WE'RE NOT EVEN
DRESSED FOR A MOONLIT
FIELD TRIP THROUGH THE
EVERGLADES!

SO, IF YOU THINK
I'M FOLLOWING YOU
IN THERE, YOU'VE GOT
ANOTHER THING
COMING!



JUST
BOUGHT
THESE AT
DADE-
LAND...

MISS COOPER,
NO OFFENSE,
BUT I WADED
THROUGH HERE
EARLIER.

DIDN'T
EVEN SPOT
A **THING**
OUT OF
PLACE.

WHAT
ARE YOU
HOPING
TO FIND?



OH,
I CAN BARELY
FIND A PHONE
CHARGER IN MY
BEDROOM,
SHERIFF.

LET
ALONE A
TIME-TRAVELER
IN SIZE TWELVE
LOAFERS.

BUT
I FIGURED
IT MIGHT BE
WORTH ASKING
ANOTHER
TRIBE OF—





GEEZ,
GANGBUSTERS,
YOU WEREN'T
KIDDING. THEY'RE
HUGE!

AND INCREDIBLY *HELPFUL*.
THEY'VE BEEN TELLING ME
ALL KINDS OF STUFF
ABOUT THE *BUNKER'S*
PAST.

HERNÁN HERE
REMEMBERS ALL
THE WAY BACK TO '62,
WHEN SOME WEIRDO
TIME EXPERIMENT
EVOLVED THEM INTO
ALLIGATOIDS.



¿Y QUE,
HERNÁN?
¿COMO
ANDA?

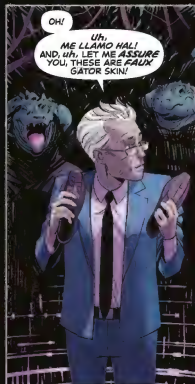
DE LO MAS
BIEN, SOPHIA.
GRACIAS A DIOS.
¿PERO QUE HACES
AQUÍ?

NOSOTROS
ESTAMOS
BUSCANDO ALGUIEN,
PERO NO SABEMOS
QUIEN. ALGUIEN...
NARANJA?



QUE EXTRAÑO.
NO HEMOS VISTO A
NINGUNA PERSONA
NARANJA ESTE--







¡HERNÁN,
POR FAVOR!
YOU GOTTA
STOP THIS!



¡ESTÁ
BUENO
YA!



SHERIFF, I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU
WITH A VIP PASS TO THIS YEAR'S
SEÑORITA CALIENTE PAGEANT
AND--

THAT WON'T BE
NECESSARY, MR. RITZ.
EVER.

GRACIAS,
HERNÁN.

SI SON
RESPUESTAS QUE
USTEDES BUSCAN,
DEBERÍAN HABLAR
CON...

...ÉL.
EL
HOMBRE DE LOS
MANGLARES.

HERNÁN SAYS
THAT IF IT'S ANSWERS
WE SEEK, WE SHOULD
SPEAK WITH...

**The
MANGROVE
MAN!**

YOU DON'T
KNOW THE
MANGROVE
MAN? HE'S THE
ONE WHO
KNOWS THE
SECRETS.

HE'S THE
ONE WHO
KNOWS THE
SECRETS.
HE'S THE
ONE WHO
KNOWS THE
SECRETS.

Y-YES.

THE MANGROVE
MAN IS THE
ONE WHO
KNOWS THE
SECRETS.

HE'S THE
ONE WHO
KNOWS THE
SECRETS.
HE'S THE
ONE WHO
KNOWS THE
SECRETS.

WELCOME
FROM AROUND
THE GLOBE
CRACKLE

GANGBUSTERS
GOT YOU ON *SPEED*
DIAL, TOO,
WHIRLYP

THAT'S A
TEN-FOUR.

THERE--

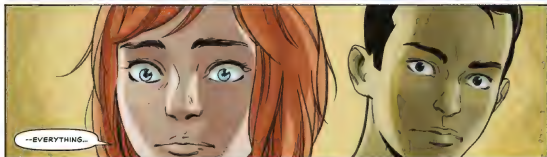
--DOWN
THERE.

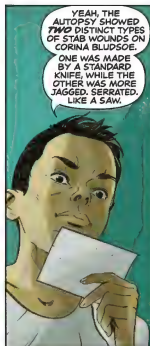
HE'S
DOING
IT.

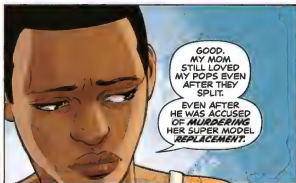
THE
MANGROVE
MAN IS
SHOWING
US--

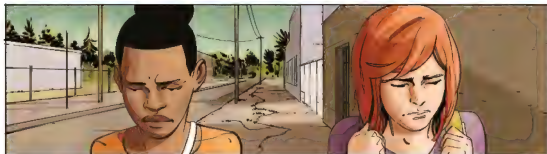
~THE
LARGER
TRUTH~













-OR FOR YOU.

TAKING A BREAK FROM FLYING SAUCERS? TO DO ANOTHER "THINK PIECE" ON THE "PLIGHT OF MY PEOPLE"?

NO, AND EVEN IF I WERE, I WOULDN'T USE *THOSE* WORDS, HAVEN.

IN THAT CASE, HOW ABOUT I GIVE YOU MY TOUR OF UMOJA NOW?

IN *THAT* DEATH TRAPP? I'D RATHER TAKE MY CHANCES IN ONE OF THOSE FLYING SAUCERS.



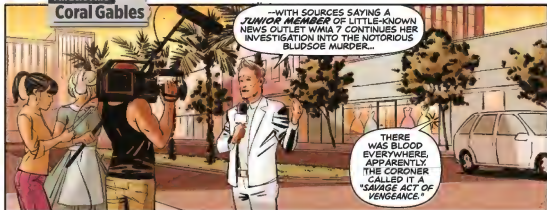
CAN'T ALWAYS BELIEVE WHAT YOU SEE.

'SIDES, HANGING OUT WITH ME WILL ONLY IMPROVE YOUR STREET CRED.

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, YOU'RE NOT TOO POPULAR 'ROUND THESE PARTS--

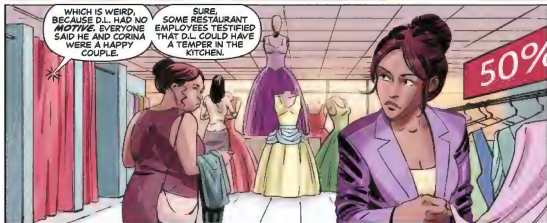


THEN WHY DON'T WE *CHANGE* THAT?



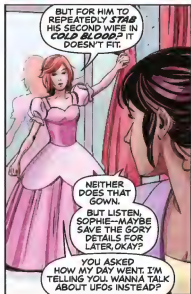
—WITH SOURCES SAYING A **JUNIOR MEMBER** OF LITTLE-KNOWN NEWS OUTLET WMIA 7 CONTINUES HER INVESTIGATION INTO THE NOTORIOUS BLUDSOE MURDER...

THERE WAS BLOOD EVERYWHERE, APPARENTLY. THE CORONER CALLED IT A "SAVAGE ACT OF VENGEANCE."



WHICH IS WEIRD, BECAUSE D.L. HAD NO **MOTIVE**. EVERYONE SAID HE AND CORINA WERE A HAPPY COUPLE.

SURE, SOME RESTAURANT EMPLOYEES TESTIFIED THAT D.L. COULD HAVE A TEMPER IN THE KITCHEN.



BUT FOR HIM TO REPEATEDLY **STAB** HIS SECOND WIFE IN **COLD BLOOD**? IT DOESN'T FIT.

NEITHER DOES THAT GOWN.

BUT LISTEN, SOPHIE—MAYBE SAVE THE GORY DETAILS FOR LATER, OKAY?

YOU ASKED HOW MY DAY WENT. I'M TELLING YOU. WANNA TALK ABOUT UFOS INSTEAD?



WE'RE DRESS SHOPPING. I WAS HOPING WE'D HAVE A **NORMAL** MOTHER-DAUGHTER CONVERSATION.

ABOUT LITERALLY **ANY OTHER SUBJECTS**. EVEN SEX.

EW, MOM. NOT THIS AGAIN.



AY, STOP BEING SO SILLY. YOU'RE **FIFTEEN** NOW.

BARELY! AND—JUST—LIKE—IS IT TOO LATE TO RECONSIDER THE WHOLE **QUINCENERA** THING? PLEASE?

NOT TO SOUND UNGRATEFUL, BUT NONE OF THIS REALLY FEELS LIKE **ME**. MOM. OR EVEN AFFORDABLE...



JUST LET ME AND
YOUR FATHER WORRY
ABOUT THE MONEY.
OKAY?

DAD?
WHAT'RE
YOU DOING
HERE?



YOUR ANKLE
MONITOR--

MAYOR
DIAZ GOT
ME A DAY
PASS.
AND A
MEETING WITH
THE D.A., WHICH
WENT VERY,
VERY WELL.

I THINK MY
HOUSE ARREST
MAY BE COMING
TO AN END--JUST
IN TIME FOR YOUR
PARTY, SOPH.



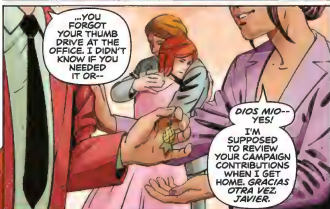
WE
REALLY
CAN'T
THANK YOU
ENOUGH,
JAVIER.

FOR THIS AND FOR
HELPING UNFREEZE OUR
BANK ACCOUNTS.

POR SU
PUERTO,
DULCE.

AND REALLY,
IT WAS SOPHIE'S
REPORTING THAT
MADE ALL OF THIS
POSSIBLE.

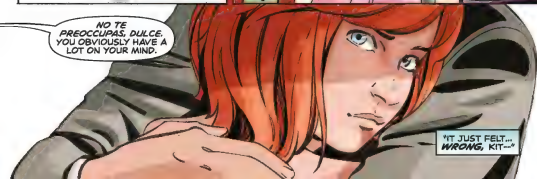
I WISH SHE
WAS BACK INTERNING FOR
ME INSTEAD OF WMIA 7!
WHICH REMINDS ME...



...YOU
FORGOT
YOUR THUMB
DRIVE AT THE
OFFICE. I DIDN'T
KNOW IF YOU
NEEDED
IT OR--

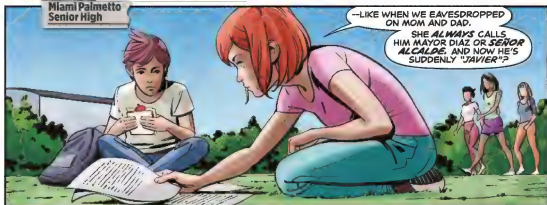
DIOS MIO--
YES!

I'M
SUPPOSED
TO REVIEW
YOUR CAMPAIGN
CONTRIBUTIONS
WHEN I GET
HOME. GRACIAS
OTRA VEZ,
JAVIER.



NO TE
PREOCCUPAS, DULCE.
YOU OBVIOUSLY HAVE A
LOT ON YOUR MIND.

'IT JUST FELT...
WRONG, KIT--'





THIS. BUILT-IN GPS, FLASHLIGHT, AND A FEW OTHER SAFETY FEATURES EVERY REPORTER ON THE FIELD NEEDS.

I WAS GONNA GIVE IT TO YOU FOR YOUR QUINCE, BUT...



YOU'VE BEEN BLOWING OFF CLASS? TO MAKE THIS? FOR *MEP*? WHY?

AS YOU SAID, I'M TEN. ONE BAD REPORT CARD NOW ISN'T GONNA RUIN MY FUTURE, RIGHT?

ALSO, I... I *WORRY* ABOUT YOU, SOPH.



OH, MY GOD. I *RECOGNIZE* THIS ADDRESS.



I THINK I KNOW WHO "*DOC*" IS.

Liberty City

REALLY
APPRECIATE
THE RIDE,
SAGE.

ME, TOO!
THIS IS *WAY* BETTER
THAN HOMEWORK!
WHAT KINDA MILEAGE
YOU GET ON THIS
BABY?

NOT THAT
I *MIND* BEING ON
CONSTANT STAND-BY
TO *CHAPERONE* A PAIR
OF KIDS ALL OVER
MIAMI--

--BUT I'M STARTING
TO RETHINK DRIVING
THIS *PARTICULAR* CAR
TO THIS *PARTICULAR*
NEIGHBORHOOD.

DON'T
WORRY.
IT'S
COOL.

KIT?
YOU
GOOD?

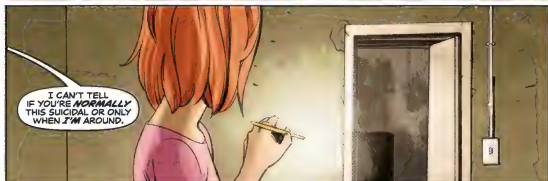
...YEAH.
JUST GOT
A STRANGE
FEELING. LIKE
DEJA VU.

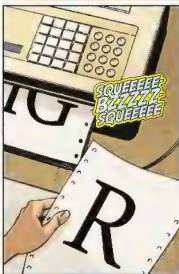
EVEN
THOUGH
I'VE NEVER
BEEN HERE
BEFORE.

YEP. THIS PLACE IS
LIKE THAT. *STRANGENESS*
EVERYWHERE. CASE IN
POINT...

...WAIT
FOR IT...WAIT
FOR IT...

BLINK







"I FOUND THE
SMOKING GUN..."

Newsroom
WMIA 7

--D.L.
ALWAYS CLAIMED
A GUY NAMED
"DOC" MURDERED
HIS SECOND WIFE.
NORRIS WACHS IS
A DOCTOR
WHO *DISAPPEARS*
FOR WEEKS--MAYBE EVEN
DECADES--WITHOUT
A TRACE.



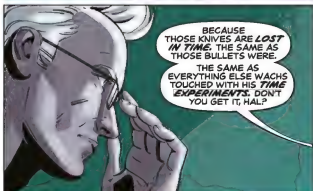
NO WONDER
THE POLICE NEVER FOUND
DOC WACHS. JUST LIKE THEY
NEVER FOUND THE MURDER
WEAPONS.

JUST LIKE
NOBODY COULD FIND
THE *BULLETS* THAT KILLED
GIANFRANCO VESCUCCI--
UNTIL WE DID.



BECAUSE
THOSE KNIVES ARE *LOST*
IN TIME. THE SAME AS
THOSE BULLETS WERE.

THE SAME AS
EVERYTHING ELSE WACHS
TOUCHED WITH HIS *TIME*
EXPERIMENTS. DON'T
YOU GET IT, HAL?



WITH
WACHS LINKED TO
BLUDSOE, THERE'S
REASONABLE
DOUBT.

WE CAN
CLEAR D.L. ONCE
AND FOR ALL!

I FOUND
THE REAL
KILLER!



ARE YOU
THROUGH?

I...
WHAT? YEAH, I'M
THROUGH.

GOOD.
BECAUSE WHILE YOU'VE
BEEN OFF PLAYING "FAX
OF FORTUNE"--





--YOUR **COMPLETELY INNOCENT** PAL, D.L., WAS ARRESTED IN A POLICE STING.

ARMED ROBBERY CHARGES RELATED TO **STOLEN MEMORABILIA** FROM HIS OLD RESTAURANTS.

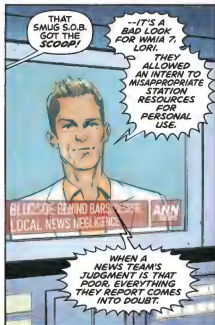
D.L. WANTED THE STUFF BACK SO HE COULD PAWN IT HIMSELF. STAR ISLAND LIVING AIN'T CHEAP, AFTER ALL.



DON'T **YOU** GET IT, GANGBUSTERS? BLUDSOE IS FACING TEN YEARS IN PRISON, **MINIMUM**.

YOUR PHANTOM FAXES WON'T HOLD UP IN **ANY** COURT OF LAW.

AND THE WORST PART?



THAT SMUG S.O.B. GOT THE **SCOOP!**

--IT'S A BAD LOOK FOR WMIA 7, LORI.

THEY ALLOWED AN INTERN TO MISAPPROPRIATE STATION RESOURCES FOR PERSONAL USE.

BLUDSOE BEHIND BARS
LOCAL NEWS NEGLIGENCE

WHEN A NEWS TEAM'S JUDGMENT IS THAT POOR, EVERYTHING THEY REPORT COMES INTO DOUBT.



NOW ARE WE EVER SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE THEM AGAIN?

I TOLD YOU, KID. SOMETIMES, PEOPLE ARE JUST PLAIN **GUILTY**.



THAT'S RITZ REPORTING RULE NUMBER SEV--

DON'T CALL ME A KID!

AND **SHUT UP** ABOUT YOUR **DAMN** RULES!

WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP



—DOCTOR'S
ORDERS.

I-I DON'T CARE
IF SOME LAB ACCIDENT
SPLIT YOUR BRAIN IN
TWO, "DOC." NO MORE
DOUBLE-TALK!

D.L.
THESE CIRCLES.
THE BUNKER.
THE BANK. MY DAD.
WHAT CONNECTS
THEM? I **NEED**
TO KNOW.

OH, IT WAS NO ACCIDENT.
I **CHOOSE** TO DIG DEEPER.
TO HAVE **VISION**. TO
SEE WHAT CANNOT
BE UNSEEN.

AS WILL **YOU**.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE
HERE. AND YET, THE
DISPASSIONATE
SCIENTIST IN ME
MUST ASK—

—WHAT WOULD
HAPPEN IF YOU DIED
HERE? ALONE. A **REPORT**
INSTEAD OF A
REPORTER.

A MURDER VICTIM
YOURSELF. WHAT WOULD
FIND YOUR BODY FIRST?
THE **ANIMALS**--OR THE
CAMERAS?

OR WOULD
THOSE WHO LEFT THESE
CIRCLES CLAIM YOU?
PERCEIVE YOU AS SOME
SACRIFICE LEFT ON
THEIR **COSMIC**
ALTAR?

YOU
ALREADY
DO KNOW.
HAVE
KNOWN. WILL
ALWAYS
KNOW.
SOON.

ALL YOU
REALLY
NEED IS TO
GIVE IT—

--TIME.

WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP

"WHAT **SCARES**
YOU, SOPHIE?"

"AFTER
EVERYTHING
YOU'VE
WITNESSED
SO FAR--"

BLUDSON

--CAN
ANYTHING
SCARE
YOU?

YOU'D BE
SURPRISED. OR
MAYBE NOT.

I'M GLAD YOU
TEXTED. BUT I CAN'T
HELP FEELING THIS IS
MY FAULT.

IF I HADN'T
SAID "YES" TO
YOUR DAD--

POPS BROUGHT
THIS ON HIMSELF. ALWAYS
DOES. YOU'RE JUST LUCKY HE
DIDN'T PULL YOU DOWN
WITH HIM.

STILL, I'M SURE
WE'LL CATCH WHOEVER
DID THIS. DAHLIA, WMIA 7
CAN REQUEST TRAFFIC
CAMERA FOOTAGE.

IN THE MEANTIME, MAYBE
YOU SHOULDN'T STAY HERE
WHEN IT'S...LIKE THIS.
MAYBE YOU CAN GO
BE WITH--

BE WITH WHO? ALL MY
FAMILY'S EITHER DEAD
OR IN JAIL. AND MY
FRIENDS...

...WHAT
FRIENDS?

WHAT
KINDA PERSON
WOULD WANT
TO BE SEEN
WITH ME?

THE
ONLY ONE
WHO EVER
DID--

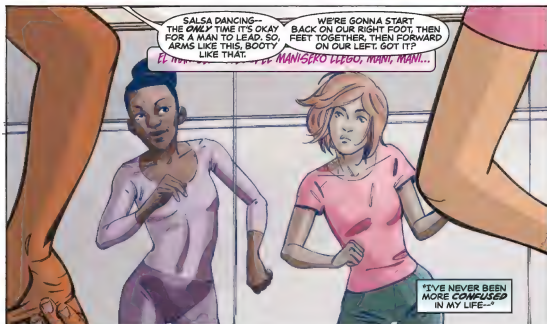
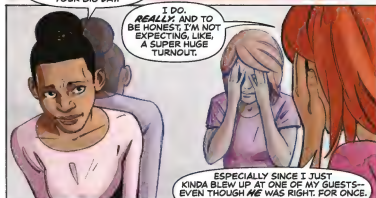
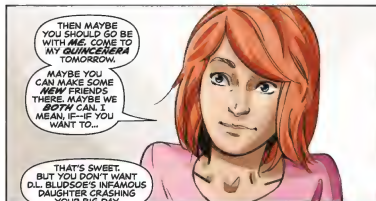
--WAS AMY.
BUT EVEN SHE...
HAD PROBLEMS.
SHE--SHE O.D.-ED.
THE DAY AFTER
SOMEONE USED
POPS' KNIVES
TO...TO...

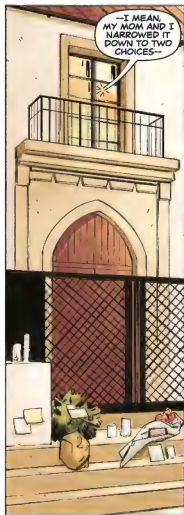
GOD, DAHLIA.
THAT'S AWFUL.
THIS GIRL--AMY--
SHE COULD'VE
BEEN YOUR
SISTER.

SHE
PRACTICALLY
WAS. BUT--

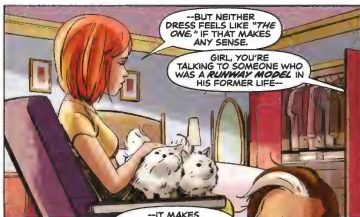
--PILLS.
PLUS PRESSURE.
PERFORMANCES.

HAPPENS
A LOT IN DANCE
ACADEMIES.





--I MEAN, MY MOM AND I NARROWED IT DOWN TO TWO CHOICES--



--BUT NEITHER DRESS FEELS LIKE "THE ONE," IF THAT MAKES ANY SENSE.

GIRL, YOU'RE TALKING TO SOMEONE WHO WAS A *RUNWAY MODEL* IN HIS FORMER LIFE--



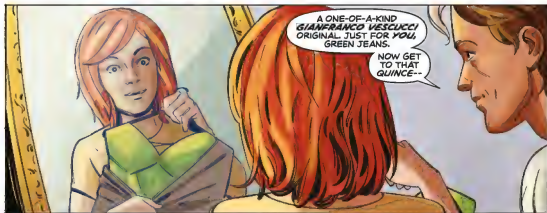
--IT MAKES *PERFECT* SENSE. AND GEE WOULD'VE *TOTALLY* GOTTEN YOUR FASHION DILEMMA, TOO.



THAT'S WHY I THINK-- NO--I *KNOW* HE WOULD'VE WANTED YOU TO HAVE *THIS*.

SAGE, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! AND I CAN'T TAKE THAT! IT'S FOR A COVER GIRL, NOT ME. IT WON'T EVEN FI--

IT. FITS. TRUST ME.



A ONE-OF-A-KIND *GIANFRANCO VESUCCI* ORIGINAL, JUST FOR YOU, GREEN JEANS.

NOW GET TO THAT *QUINCE*--

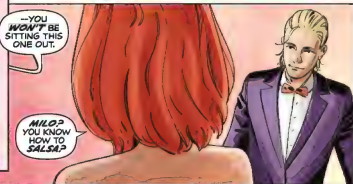
"...AND LET
SOMEBODY TAKE
YOUR PICTURE
FOR A CHANGE!"







FELICIDADES,
GANGBUSTERS.



SI.

TU AMOR ES UN
PERIÓDICO DE AYER

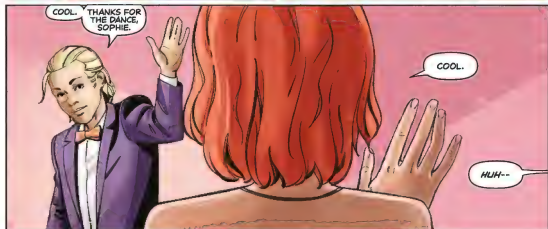
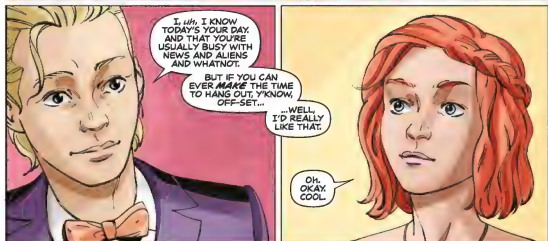
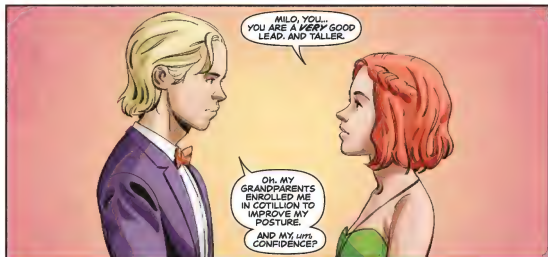
QUE NADIE MAS
PROCURA YA LEER

SENSACIONAL CUANDO
SALIO EN LA MADRUGADA
A MEDIO DIA YA NOTICIA
CONFIRMADA

Y EN LA TARDE
MATERIA OLVIDADA

TU AMOR ES UN
PERIÓDICO DE AYER





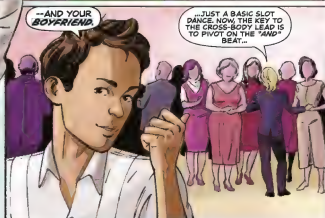


--NOW
WHERE HAVE
I HEARD *THAT*
BEFORE?



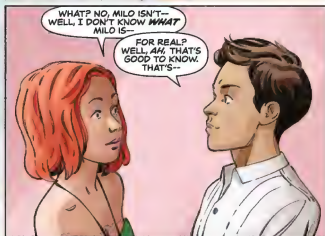
US NAVY.
WOW. YOU
LOOK--

"COOL"? NOT NEARLY
AS COOL AS YOU,
COOPER. AND YOU GOT
SOME MOVES, TOO.
YOU--



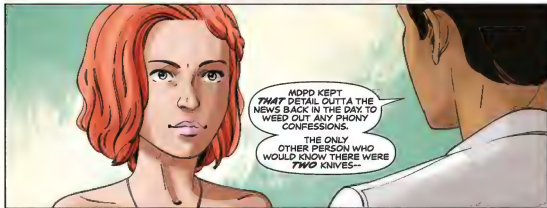
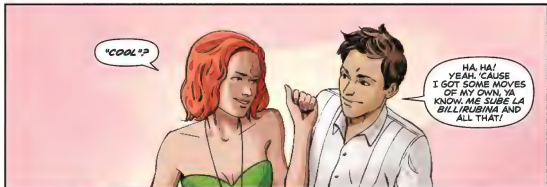
--AND YOUR
BOYFRIEND.

...JUST A BASIC SLOT
DANCE. NOW, THE KEY TO
THE CROSS-BODY LEAD IS
TO PIVOT ON THE "AND"
BEAT...



WHAT? NO, MILO ISN'T--
WELL, I DON'T KNOW *WHAT*
MILO IS--

FOR REAL?
WELL, AH, THAT'S
GOOD TO KNOW.
THAT'S--





--IS
THE REAL
KILLER.



COOPER?
¿QUE
PASAP?

NOW YOU
GOT IT--



--SEE?
WHAT'D I TELL
YOU? I CAN
TEACH ANYONE
TO MOVE!

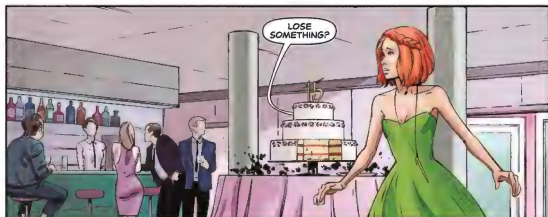


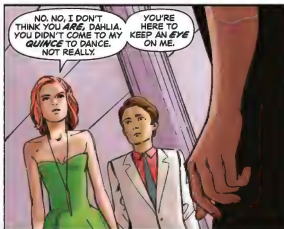
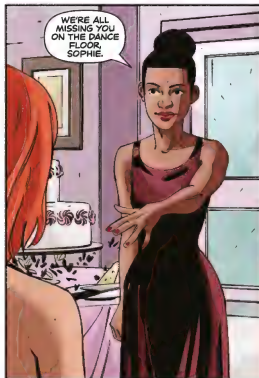
I...
I NEED TO
FIND HAL.
RIGHT
NOW.




DON'T SEE HIM OUT
HERE. I'LL GO
CHECK THE MEN'S
ROOM.

I'LL TAKE
THE BAR.







AND I CAN'T
PROVE IT--NOT YET,
ANYWAY--BUT I'M THINKING
AMY WAS YOUR *ALIBI*. YOU
CAN TEACH ANYONE TO
MOVE, RIGHT?

SO YOU TAUGHT HER
TO MOVE LIKE *YOU*--
ACT LIKE YOU AT YOUR
DANCE ACADEMY--SINCE
SHE ALREADY *LOOKED*
LIKE YOU.



THAT FREED YOU
UP TO COME BACK TO
MIAMI. TO--I CAN'T EVEN
SAY THE REST. BUT
YOU *KNOW* IT.

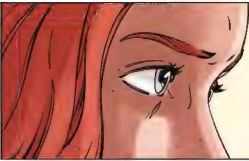
AND WHEN AMY
EVENTUALLY REALIZED
HER PART IN ALL OF THIS,
IT KILLED HER, TOO.

IT WASN'T
PILLS PLUS PRESSURE.
IT WAS *GUILT*.



YOU THINK
YOU'RE THE *FIRST*
PERSON TO ACCUSE
ME OF BEING THE
"REAL KILLER"?

YOU THINK
I HAVEN'T BEEN CALLED
WORSE BY ANONYMOUS
TROLLS HIDING BEHIND
SCREEN NAMES?



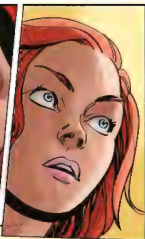
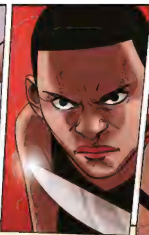
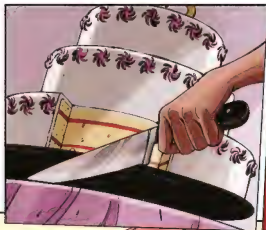
NO, I DON'T.
BUT I *DO* KNOW HOW
PEOPLE REACT WHEN
THEY'RE BLAMED OF A
CRIME THEY DIDN'T
COMMIT.

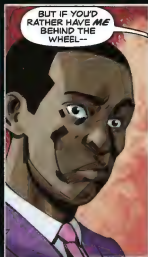
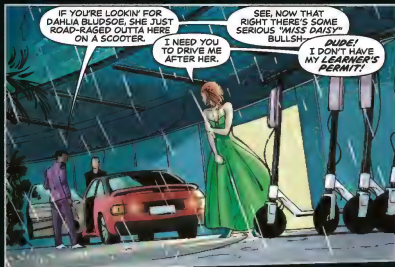
THEY GET
EMOTIONAL. *ANGRY*.
THEY NEVER STOP
SAYING THEY'RE
INNOCENT.

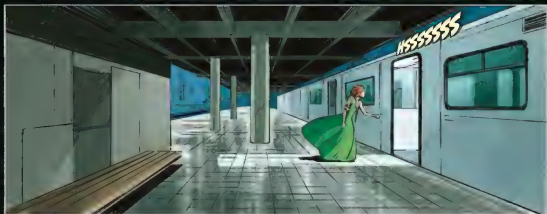
LIKE
MY DAD DID.
LIKE *YOURS*.



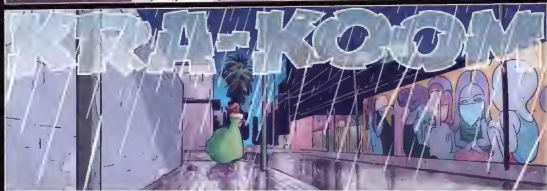
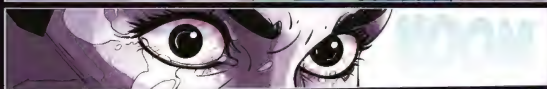
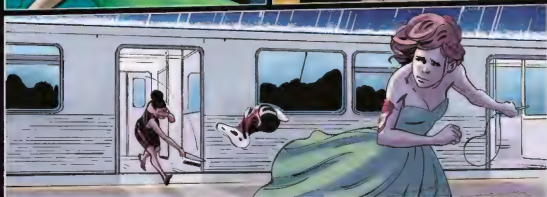
BUT
NOT LIKE
YOU.















--AS THIS WEEK SEES YET ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE TROUBLED BLUDSOE FAMILY UNDER ARREST.



--CARSON COOPER VIOLATED HIS "DAY PASS" THE SECOND HE LEFT HIS DAUGHTER'S PARTY.

THE D.A. CONFIRMS THAT COOPER IS BACK UNDER HOUSE ARREST-- AND UNDER EVEN GREATER SCRUTINY.

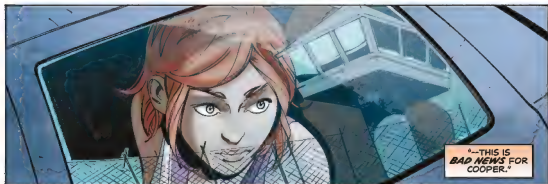


--NOT ONE-- BUT TWO-- MURDER WEAPONS HAVE FINALLY BEEN FOUND. DAHLIA BLUDSOE'S FINGERPRINTS APPEAR ON BOTH KNIVES, WHICH SHE HID INSIDE A STATUE--



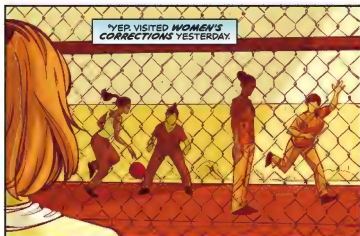
--DURING A RECENT SEARCH OF COOPER'S HOME, WHEN SUSPICIOUS COMPUTER FILES WERE DISCOVERED--

--WHICH DETAIL PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN LEVELS OF EMBEZZLEMENT, TAKE IT FROM ME, FOLKS--

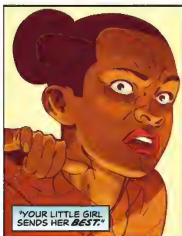


--THIS IS BAD NEWS FOR COOPER.





"YEP. VISITED *WOMEN'S CORRECTIONS* YESTERDAY.



"YOUR LITTLE GIRL SENDS HER *BEST*."

ANY MESSAGES YOU WANT ME TO PASS ON TO HER--OR YOUR OL' PAL DOCTOR WACHS?

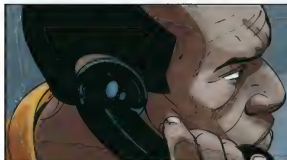
FOUND DOC. HUH? THEN YOU CAN'T BLAME ME FOR THINKIN' HE WAS A KILLER. THOSE EYES OF HIS--



--THEY WEREN'T KIND. NOT LIKE MY DAHLIA'S...

...SHE DIDN'T WANT ME CONTACTIN' YOU. BUT I *KNEW* YOUR SPOTLIGHT WOULD RAISE MY PROFILE AGAIN--AND MY MEMORABILIA PRICES.

I JUST DIDN'T KNOW *WHAT ELSE* YOUR SPOTLIGHT WOULD RAISE.



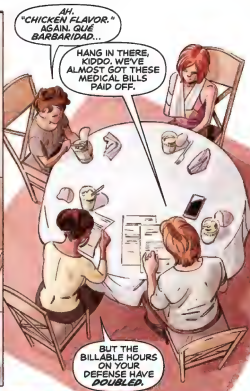
WHAT DAHLIA DID, I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND WHY. BUT WHAT I DID?

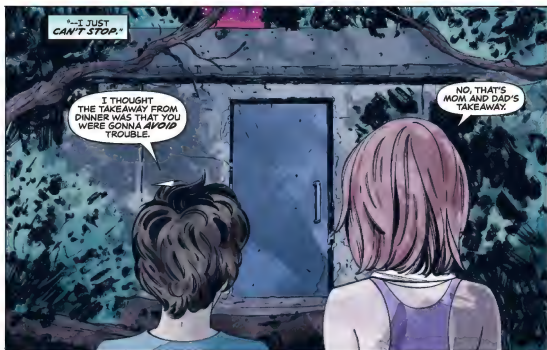
I DID IT FOR ME. I DID IT BECAUSE I JUST.

CAN'T.

STOP.









MINE IS--



--DIG DEEPER.

SWIM!



SO NOW YOU'RE TAKING LIFE ADVICE FROM DOCTOR EVIL EYES? SOPH, THAT STORM SURGE FLOODED THIS BUNKER.

WHATEVER'S UNDERNEATH IS COMPLETELY SUBMERGED. YOU KNOW I'M RIGHT.



THIS ISN'T ABOUT THAT. RIGHT, WRONG...IT DOESN'T MATTER.

THIS IS ABOUT **FACTS**. ABOUT FOLLOWING THEM **WHEREVER** THEY LEAD, EVEN WHEN IT'S SCARY.

CLIK' CLIK'



SPLASH

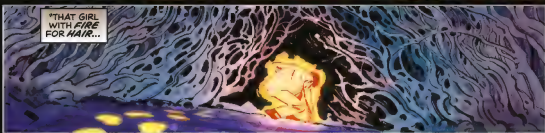
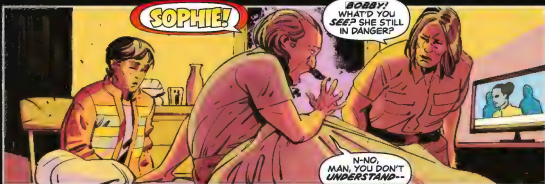


VMMMMMMMMMMMMMM



M-M-M-M-Z-Z-Z-Z-Z-Z-Z-Z-Z-Z





—THE FUTURE.

SOPHIE!
PLEASE BE OKAY,
SOPH! PLEASE! YOU
WERE DOWN THERE
SO LONG!



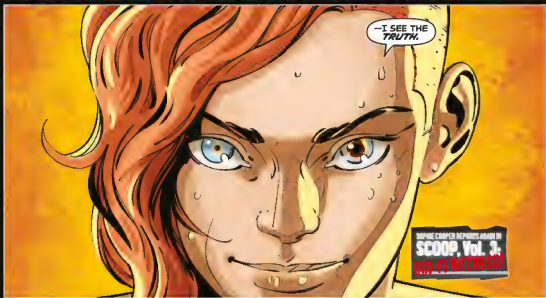
TELL ME IF
YOU'RE HAVING
SHORTNESS OF BREATH
OR A HEADACHE OR
BLURRED VISION
OR—

KIT.

IT'S OKAY.
I AM OKAY.
ESPECIALLY
MY VISION.
FINALLY—

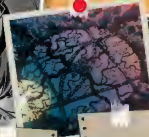
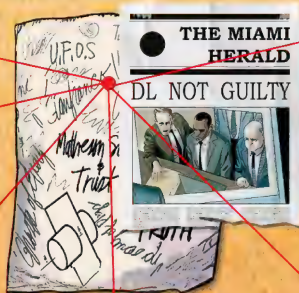


—I SEE THE
TRUTH.



SAPHIRE COMICS REPORTS AGAIN IN
SCOOP, Vol. 3:
COM'N WITHNESSA





D i G D E e P e R

"THE UNUSUAL



SOPHIE COOPER

Sophie Cooper is a spirited investigator who stumbled into the internship at WMIA 7 in a bid to prove her father's innocence in the face of embezzlement charges. What she's found, instead, is a web of conspiracy that involves aliens, UFOs, time travel and a race of Alligatoids who live in the Everglades. She'll stop at nothing to find the truth...even if the truth hurts.



HAL RITZ (RITZENHAUSER)

A television reporter for WMIA 7 with a long resume he can't wait to tell you about, Hal is proud to call Sophie his protégé...even if he's less happy about where that has led him (into fights with his boss, out into the Everglades, facing his legacy and what it means to be a journalist...you get the idea).



USNAVY

and Sophie have a connection as fellow truth seekers (and perhaps something more) with Usnavy happy to help puzzle out solutions with Sophie...so long as he also gets those mocha fraps to his boss on time!



DOCTOR "DOC" WACHS

er than he was involved with time travel experiments beginning in the 1960s and that he seems to be of two minds about everything.

SUSPECTS "



KIT COOPER

Kit is Sophie's younger brother—always joining on her adventures, asking annoying questions, and sometimes creating unique inventions like the Pen-Dant for Sophie to use on her investigations.



MILO

A film nerd at heart, Milo has stayed true as Sophie's friend throughout her family's many scandals, despite the fact that the rest of the student body at Miami Palmetto Senior High have turned their backs on the Cooper family.



CARSON & DULCE COOPER

Mr. and Mrs. Cooper are Sophie and Kit's proud parents, even if their kids are always getting into trouble. Carson is under house arrest for alleged embezzlement, even though Sophie uncovered evidence suggesting that he might not be so guilty after all. Dulce works long hours as an attorney for the Mayor of Miami, Javier Diaz, hoping to help get him reelected...and serving as the Cooper family's primary breadwinner.



THE BANKER

Sophie and Kit after they discovered the Everglades bunker and the time travel experiments therein, the Banker works for the very same bank that accused Carson of embezzlement. Even stranger, the Banker has been around since the 1960s, yet he hasn't aged a day. Sophie and Kit thought the Banker was gone for good...but like a bad penny, it looks like he's turned up again.

CREATOR BIOS



RICHARD ASHLEY HAMILTON

Is an award-winning Cuban-American (no, really) writer best known for his storytelling across many DreamWorks Animation franchises including *How To Train Your Dragon* and Guillermo Del Toro's *Tales of Arcadia*. But in his heart, Richard remains a lifelong comic book fan and has created titles for Dark Horse, AfterShock, Insight, Papercutz, and more. He currently writes *Scoop* for Mad Cave Studios/Maverick, and his middle-grade horror title, *Fearbook Club*, was named a 2022 Junior Library Guild Official Selection.

PABLO ANDRÉS

After finishing his illustration studies in Buenos Aires, Pablo Andrés moved to Spain, where he began drawing comics and where he currently resides. His work has been published in Dark Horse Comics, Disney Comics, Insight Comics, Hugo Publishing and Z2 Comics. He is co-creator of the Webtoon *Summer Lights*, which was awarded a special mention.



SIMON ROBINS

Is based in the bushy surrounds of regional Victoria in Australia. With a focus on the psychology and storytelling potential of color, Simon strives to push the limits of the medium and explore new and creative approaches to coloring comics. With seven years as a professional colorist, he has worked with both major mainstream and independent publishers and creators. He also occasionally letters comics and loves the unseen craft involved in this often under-recognized element of comic creation.

DAVE LANPHEAR

Is an award-winning cartoonist, comic book letterer, art director and story producer. He was one of the creative team on *Archaia's Return of the Dapper Men* which was awarded two Eisner Awards. Notable books Lanphear is known for lettering include *Batman: The Long Halloween*, *Superman '78*, *Mighty Avengers*, *Wonder Woman*, *Thunderbolts*, *Danger Girl*, *X-Men/WildCATS*, *Fraggle Rock*, *William's Zombie Nation*, and *FutureQuest*. He's online at @Artmonkeys_Studios on Instagram, and @artmonkeys everywhere else.



SCOOP™



#SCIFIWITNESS



VOL. 3
COMING SOON



MAVERICK

SCOOP

#BuriedLeads

Sophie Cooper's life has only gotten more complicated as she splits her days between school (where she's as unpopular as ever), her internship at news station WMIA 7 (where she fields even more tips about Miami's paranormal activity), and planning her upcoming Quinceañera.

But when a disgraced celebrity chef hears how Sophie has been proving her father's innocence, the forsaken foodie makes a desperate plea — he needs Sophie to find out who really murdered his ex-wife.

Now Sophie must hunt through the past...while someone else hunts her in the present. This whodunit leads Sophie through dance-offs, crop circles and a cat-and-mouse chase across the colorful, yet treacherous, streets of the Wynwood district. As she reveals the real killer, Sophie discovers a startling new truth about herself...one which threatens to doom the teen journalist once and for all.



MAVERICK